

In response to the Office Action dated October 22, 2002, in the above-identified U.S. Patent application, please amend as follows:

In the Specification

Please insert on page 1, between the title of the application and the first paragraph, the following new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/158,321 filed on October 8, 1999 in the names of DeVico, Fouts and Tuskan for "VIRUS COAT PROTEIN/RECEPTOR CHIMERAS AND METHODS OF USE"

In the Claims:¹

1. A chimeric polypeptide comprising:
a virus coat polypeptide sequence, wherein the virus is an immunodeficiency virus selected from the group consisting of HIV, SIV, FIV, and FeLV, a viral receptor polypeptide sequence that has a bonding affinity for the virus coat polypeptide sequence, and an amino acid sequence spacer linked to both the virus coat polypeptide sequence and viral receptor polypeptide sequence and positioned therebetween to form a single chain polypeptide, wherein the spacer consists of an amino acid sequence of sufficient length to allow the single chain polypeptide to fold thereby permitting the virus coat polypeptide sequence and the viral receptor polypeptide sequence to form an intramolecular interacting complex.

Please add claim the following new claim.

¹ Consistent with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.121, a marked up version of the amended claims is contained in Appendix A hereof; a clean copy of all pending claims is contained in Appendix B hereof. Consistent with the holding of Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd., et al., 535 U.S. ____ (2002), decided May 28, 2002, any amendments herein that hereafter are deemed to be narrowing amendments by a court of competent jurisdiction in a final unappealed or unappealable decision, are not intended to relinquish any scope of equivalents unforeseeable at the time of this amendment or that relate to aspects of the invention having only a peripheral relation to the basis for the amendment.

73. The chimeric polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the intramolecular interacting complex formed between the virus coat polypeptide sequence and the viral receptor polypeptide sequence exposes an epitope that is hidden without the formation of the intramolecular interacting complex.

Please cancel claim 12.